

Final Report: Initial Noxious Weed Surveys at LARO

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This report describes activities undertaken in Study Number LARO-00002 funded through the National Park Service to identify and map noxious weed infestations and identify any rare plants within seven treatment areas listed below within Lake Roosevelt NRA. This report contains the following information: 1) an overview of the condition of each of the survey areas; 2) hard copy and digital maps showing the locations of the noxious weeds in each survey area, survey routes, and photo points; 3) a description of the photo points, and 4) scanned copies of all photos taken.

The 2004 weed surveys of the designated burn treatment areas at LARO were carried out during the week of June 21, 2004. Gerry Wright conducted the surveys using the Intuitive Controlled Survey method. All treatment areas were thoroughly surveyed. All of the treatment areas were largely free of any noxious weeds. Likewise, no sensitive plant species were found in any of the treatment areas. The extremely xeric conditions and aspect of all of the areas would not provide suitable habitat for any of the sensitive plants that might be found in the region. There were only two small problem areas with respect to noxious weeds, these being in the Gifford and Mission Point treatment areas and these are relatively minor as described below.

In almost all cases in all areas, the noxious weeds that did occur were located along access roads. In 1982 I conducted a survey of unauthorized roads in the Fort Spokane Ranger District that was published as one of our CPSU Technical Reports in 1983. This study documented the condition of access roads in that district and made recommendations for minimizing their use. These findings are still valid today, and more effective impediments to off-road vehicle access today would probably help minimize the spread of noxious weeds in the treatment areas. Also, because most of the pockets of weed infestation were along these roads in open areas, they are unlikely to be influenced by ground fires associated with the treatments.

There was ample evidence in all areas that treatment in terms of thinning of trees and shrubs and subsequent burning is necessary. In the stands that have been treated but not yet burned I felt the crews did a pretty thorough job in their operation. Below I describe some specific comments and recommendations for each site.

1. Na-Bor-Lee

Surveyed June 21st. This site because of its proximity within and adjacent to the group camping area is probably the most disturbed of the six areas I visited. There is a small burn on the northeast corner of the treatment area that appears to be from a wildfire last year. Only a very few scattered individual weed plants were noted and are shown as points on the data-map.

2. Gifford

Surveyed June 21st and 23rd. The area as noted on the map just north of the individual campsites and upslope from the marsh is one of the two problem areas I identified. It contains roughly a 50m² patch of spotted knapweed. This is along an old access road and is unlikely to be effected by any burning. This could be easily and quickly spot sprayed. Much of the area in the northern polygon of this site is within the fence line of the grazing allotment. When I was there the cattle were in the trees and not in the pasture as it was quite hot. I saw no evidence that grazing was having any influence on the plant communities there. The access road in the northern portion of this site also supports scattered weedy plants. The park might want to explore putting up some type of barrier here closer to the highway 25.

3. Bradbury

Surveyed June 23. This area is by far the most ecologically interesting site- particularly the area south of the boat launch. It supports a relatively diverse plant community that is influenced by the many incised drainages that slope off the highway toward the lake. No thinning has been done here as yet and it is definitely needed. Surveying this site was the most arduous of all. As noted on the data-maps only a few scattered individual plants of spotted knapweed and dalmation toadflax were found and these are noted as points on the data map.

4. Mission Point

Surveyed June 22

This site was essentially free of any noxious weeds. However there is one area of concern that lies along the power-line right-of-way road and adjacent to the road that goes into the mission. It is outside the identified burn polygon. It contains three patches as shown on the map of dense dalmation toadflax. These can be easily sprayed and should be controlled before they expand into the burn polygon.

5. Whispering Pines

Surveyed June 22nd. This site is also relatively clean with only a few scattered spotted knapweed and sulfur cinquefoil plants along the old road that runs through the middle of the polygon. This road is effectively blocked off. I don't suspect this site gets much visitor use except from residents of the adjacent Whispering Pines Resort.

6. Evans

Surveyed June 23nd. As noted on the data-maps, this site was the only one with any number of sulphur cinquefoil and these were minor occurring as individual plants along former roads. The northern portion of this site contains a large area of windrowed exposed cobble rock that looks to be the result of gold or silver(?) surface mining activities years ago. It currently supports limited vegetation. The small inlet north of the polygon and adjacent to a residence

supports a vigorous stand of dalmation toadflax.

7. Porcupine

This site was surveyed in 2003 and weed infestations are identified on the data-maps. It was therefore not covered in 2004.

Photo Points LARO Burn Polygons, June 2004

Evans

EV-1 View south from point of access to polygon, showing tree scorch and underground reduction.

EV-2 Similar view looking south from center of the area along the burn line separating two polygons, shows effectiveness of the burn.

EV-3 Same point as number 2, but looking north, showing dense unburned dog-haired ponderosa pine.

EV-4 View west along the trail separating burned and non-burned polygons.

Na-Bor-Lee

NB-1 View southwest near the parking area showing scattered spotted knapweed plants.

NB-2. Similar location to #1, looking southeast also showing scattered spotted knapweed plants.

NB-3 View south from interior of burn polygon along one of the major trails.

Whispering Pines

WP-1 View south along the former access road just south of the barrier.

WP-2 View taken from the shoreline looking northwest across the burn polygon showing dense ponderosa pine.

WP-3 View of the interior of the polygon showing the dominant plant community of the area, ponderosa pine and snowberry.

Mission Point

MP-1 Taken southwest of Mission Point looking southwest, showing typical stand of ponderosa

pine bordering lake shore.

MP-2. View south showing thinned stand of pine bordering power line ROW.

MP-3 View south-southwest in southern part of polygon showing dense ponderosa pine and snowberry typical of this part of the treatment area.

Gifford

GI-1, a,b Two views of relatively large stand of knapweed in an opening south of the pasture.

GI-2 typical woodland east of pasture area looking north, shows dense dog-haired p pine.

GI-3. Taken from northeast corner of pasture showing line between pasture and woodland, looking south

GI-4. View from northwest corner of pasture looking north into mature ponderosa pine.

GI-5 Mature timber stand in northern part of polygon view to northeast.

GI-6 View from southern part of the polygon looking north along lake shore.

GI-7. View of spotted knapweed stand on bench west of the swimming area.

GI-8 View of a second spotted knapweed stand on bench above the swimming area.

Bradbury

Bb-1 View south on bench south of boat launch area showing stand of spotted knapweed

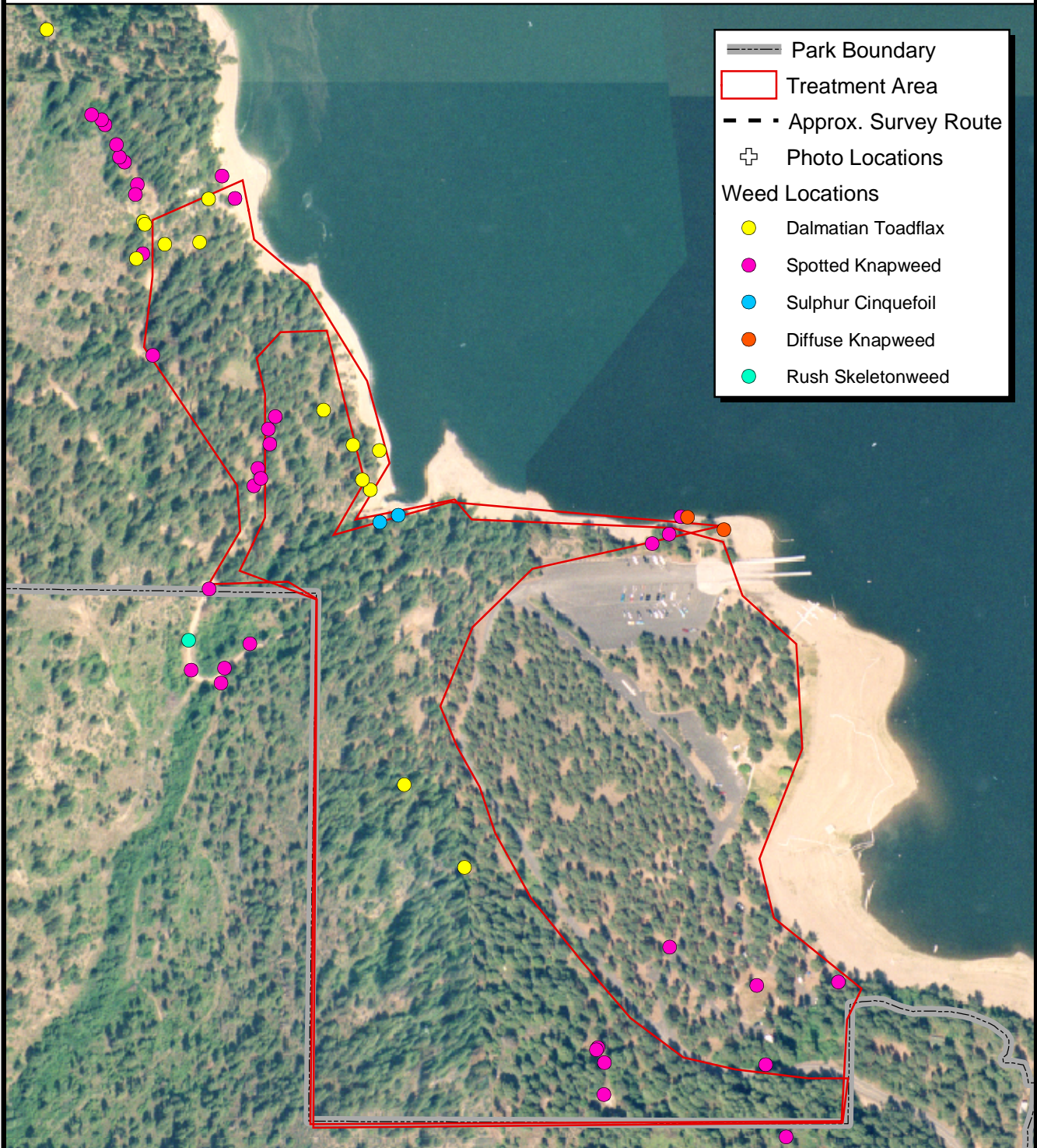
Bb-2 View of the interior of the forested area showing a patch of dalmation toadflax

Bb-3 View further south of another patch of dalmation toadflax

Bb-4 Stand of scattered spotted knapweed mixed with blue-bunch wheatgrass looking north northeast taken from southern boundary of polygon.



Weed Inventory -- Porcupine Treatment Area



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October 2004

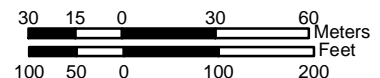




Weed Inventory -- Na-Bor-Lee Treatment Area

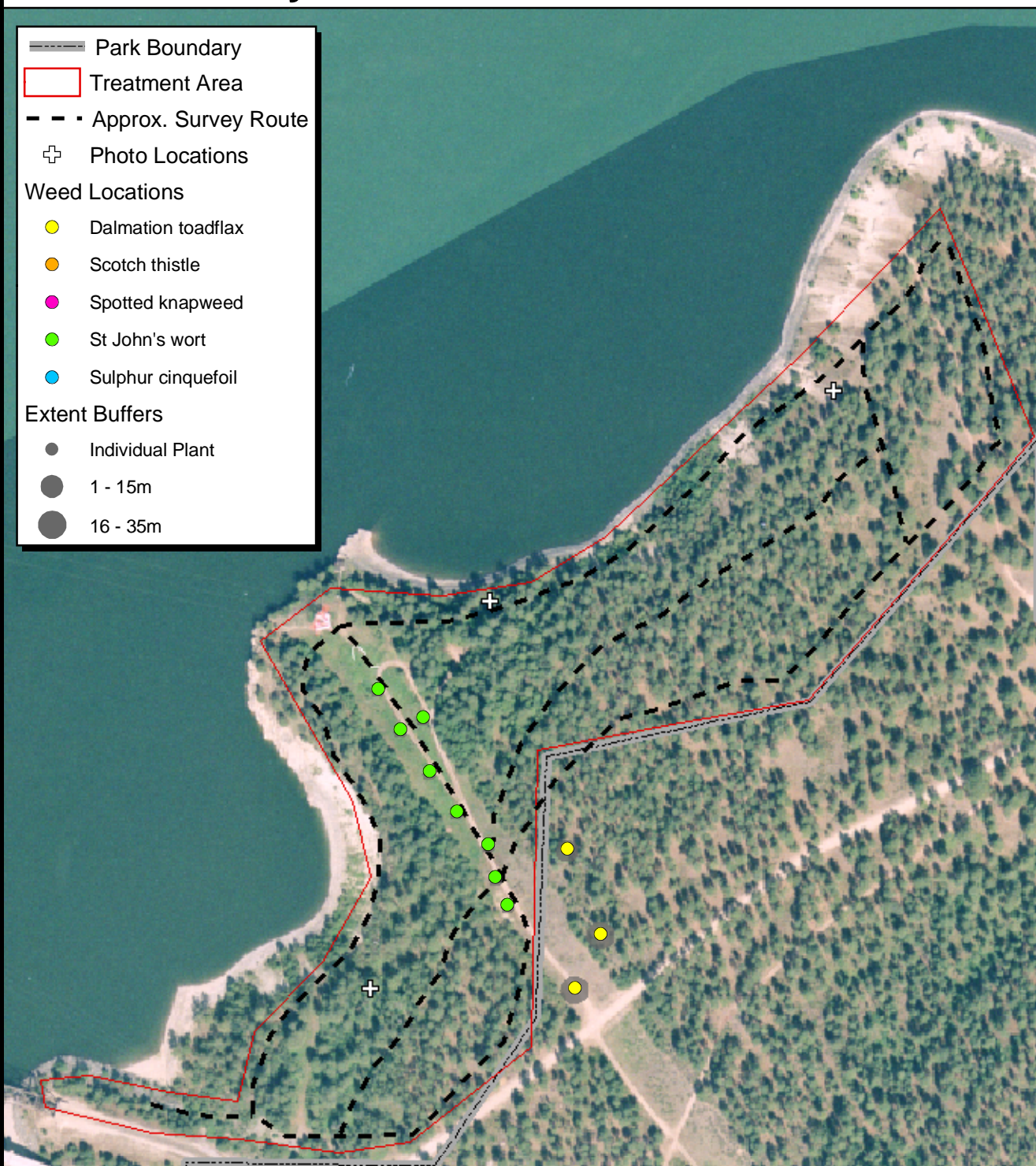


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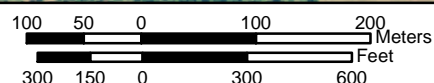


Weed Inventory -- Mission Point Treatment Area



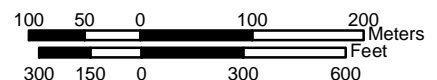
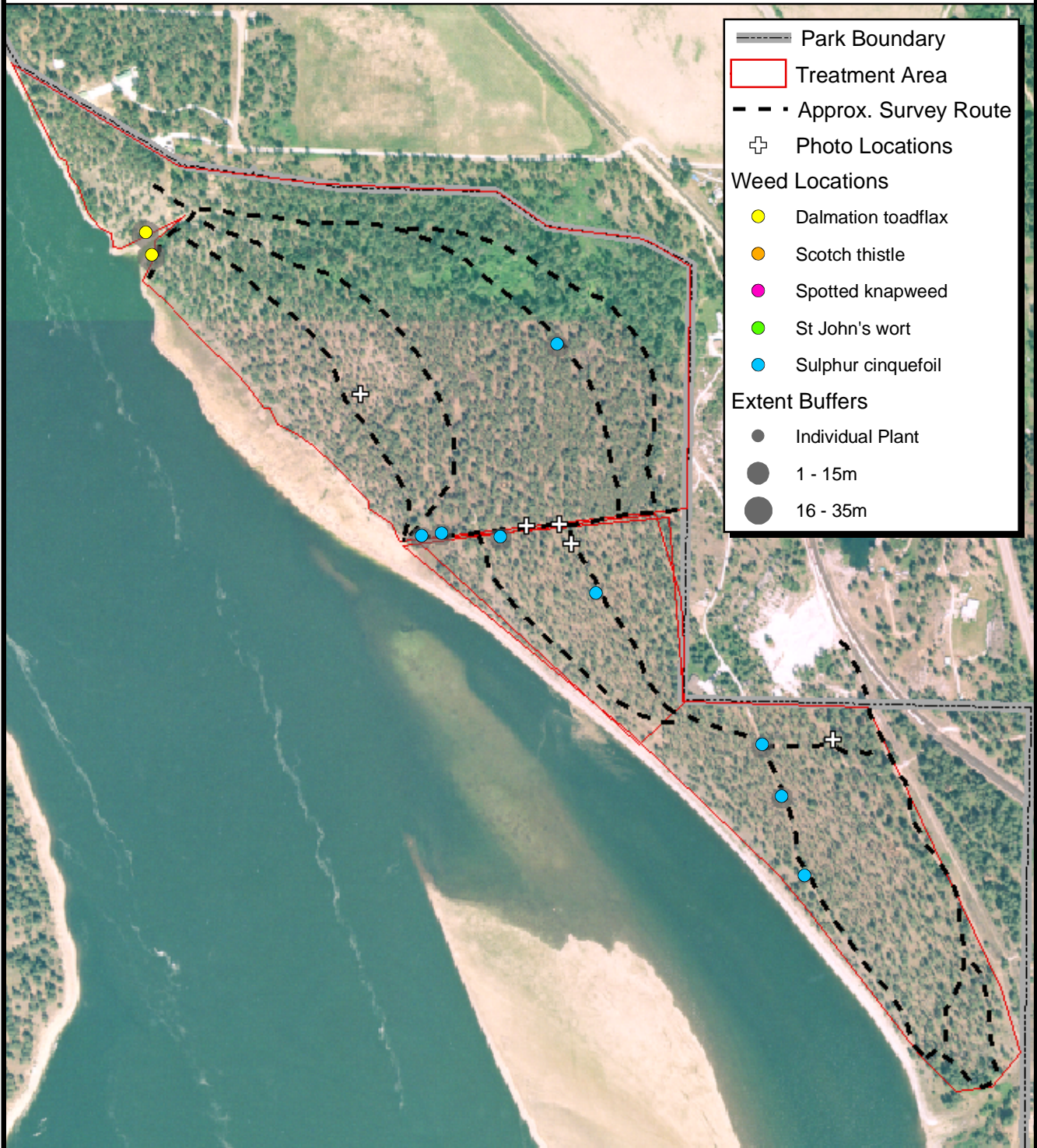


Weed Inventory -- Gifford Treatment Area



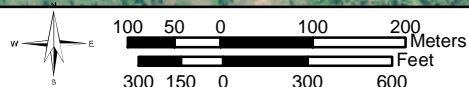
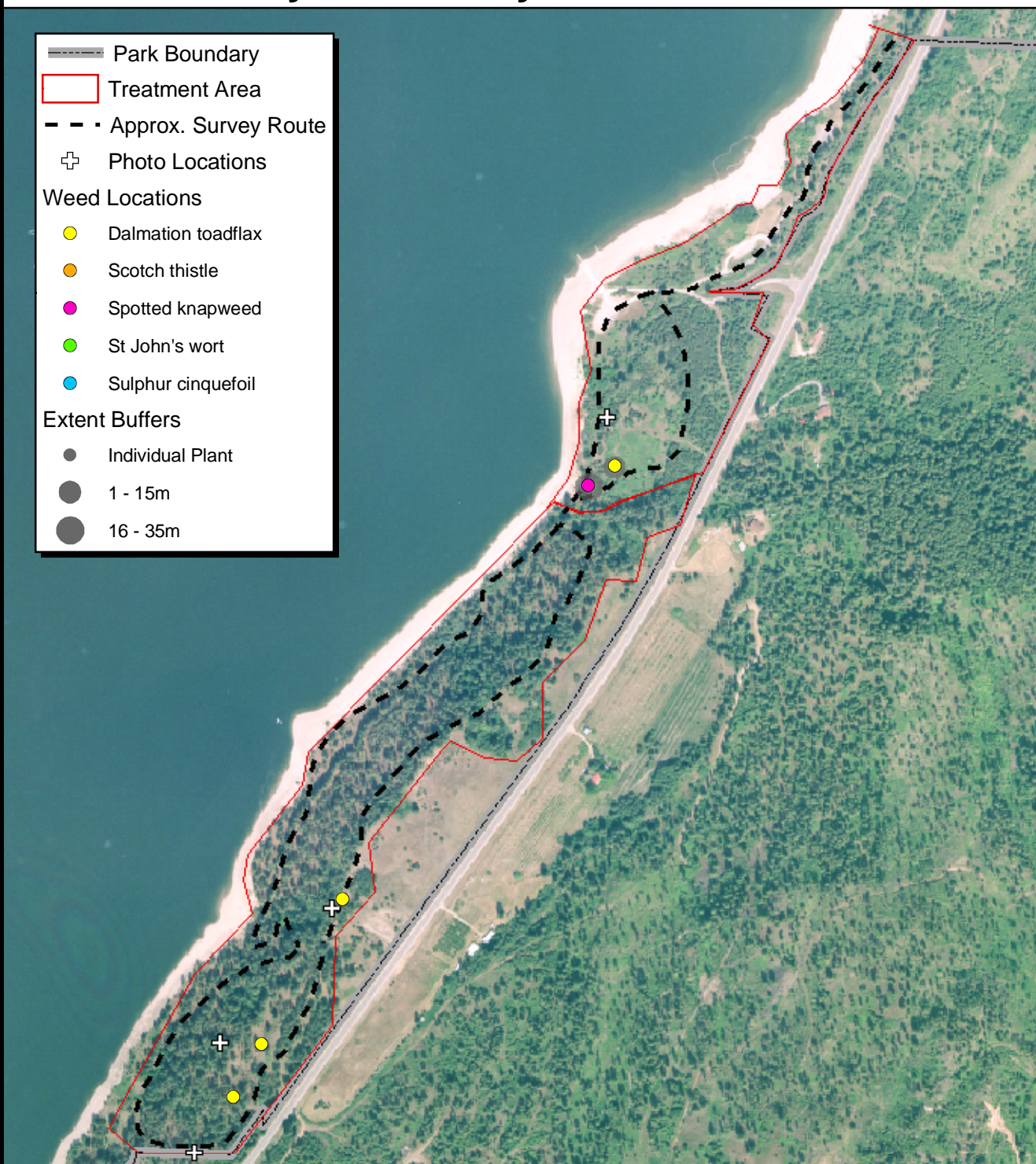
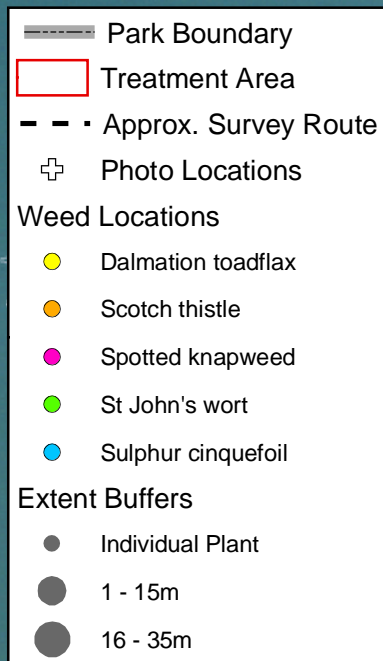


Weed Inventory -- Evans Treatment Area





Weed Inventory -- Bradbury Treatment Area





Weed Inventory -- Whispering Pines Treatment Area



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